Sixth Street, 6 July

My dear Poe—

I avail myself of the opportunity afforded by the visit of our friend Storey to return your Number of Sill. Jour. & please bear in mind that I do return it, & do not 6 months hence (as in the case of Hook. Jour. Bot.) charge me with losing it. I have had another—less severe—attack of my late disorder, but as I had not recovered my strength this slighter relapse has brought me down very low—both in mind & body, & I cannot help feeling that much of my solicitude, as to future means of support, has been at the expense of present ease & tranquillity—& at times painful, injurious admonishes me that my thoughts should be more of a future existence, than of the wants & requirements of the present— Last night brought me a letter from Mr Bowen with a remittance of $16 (!!) I certainly did not look for this, & wrote solely for the interests of Tody. At your good offices— so that I felt minded to return his Honorarium with due thanks. Hammer, it occurred to me that by doing so, I should subject myself to the imputation of an affectation (which I know I do not feel) of placing myself in an attitude of superiority to those far more gifted pens & heads who stately write for the Review. I therefore conclude to "pocket the affront"— the first— that literature or Poetry ever procured me— & I enclose a letter for Mr Bowen which please peruse, & then "Seal & Deliver".

Your letter of the 29 Ult. reached me duly— & I heartily thank you for your renewed invitation. But I cannot. Even "Texas" has not charms for me— & were I prone to any

I should desire no greater inducement to visit you than the company of yourself & dear little wife - I return you Boott's very pleasant note, & also Bentham's - With respect to the first I only ask that you must not let Sprague undertake too much or it is probable he will break down & do nothing - He has not quite your energy. In the matter of Bentham's parcel I had long talks both with W. & P. (The former had heard from you on the subject) - P. says, it is barely possible that when they removed their goods from Waterloo Place to Pater? Row, this parcel may have been inadvertently carried thither. He further remarked that it was his practice to note at the foot of his invoices, the packages, unconnected with business, which accompanied his shipments, & by which it might be ascertained whether the parcel ever arrived here - This I communicated to Wiley who saw me he will have the invoices examd. for 2 or 3 days subsequent to the date mentioned by Bentham & will also write to their Agt in Pat. Row. to make the necessary search there - This is all I can do for you in the matter - I believe. Bentham's accounts are indeed very sad & heart-sickening - And after all this bloodshed & ruin in the name of Liberty the French seem inclined to worship the shadow (the mere name) of the greatest Tyrant the world ever saw!

I copied & sent to Sam. the extracts from your letter, as to his plants, & you will hear from himself, no doubt. I begged him to retain $5. (£2½) which Engelmann owes me for shipping Agts. on the Box of Wislizenus Reports to Bremen - but if he does not do so - Please retain it for me, yourself - Engelmann knows he owes it to me, & you need only name it as a body-men to me & to his account.

There may be less "Gammon" than you think in my remarks about Acnida & platanthera &c. I did not however expect you to go into the matter now, but hereafter my idea may occur to you - to your possible advantage.

In your (botanical) conversations with our good friend T. &c. be careful to say nothing which could excite any little sensitiveness he may feel. We know his many & great virtues, which should procure the needful for his carices towards the (few) weaknesses he may have - Do not reserve the Carices for me. Let him have the entire Crop! Even the exception might annoy him; & if I am in Am.a with health & spirits for the purpose, he will be sure of any hints or helps which I could give him as to his genus - But to confess a truth, my dear Gray, I do not expect to see these specimens! As Sam. had not opened his package of Mex. Pl. plants, I only last night received the "Carex gracill. S. Car. & Kan." ? It is C. oxylepis Torr. & Hook. & in the language of our Rocky Mt. friend - Resembles C. gracill. but is far different! I have not partic.y studied the species, but I think that in addn to the sharp scale the hairy leaves & sheaths must separate it from C. gracil. tho' not from C. ostinalis Curt. You will be having this C. oxylepis from Texas & W. Louis.a I have it also from Flor.a Chap.l - A letter from Boott, by last steamer tells me - to my great satisfaction - "Brown too was here speaking highly of Gray's beautiful volume" - (Brown !!) Plantas to the inspection of Torrey's herb. & Boott's valuminous & valuable Correspond.ce I am getting to be (to fancy myself) something of an authority on Carex, just at the time too - when it will probably be utterly useless to myself & the (Botanical) world - I have another letter from Rockr - I must drop that Correspce - We cannot think alike, or understand each other - He is a good man, doubtless; but his weakness - on the score of Personal Vanity - is so great - that it leads him into Dissimu-

As I see you have an oppor.ty to send to Boott, I have written Torrey to bring on with him a few of the Rep.d. Rep.r Caricatures which he wd like to see, I find - If Torrey comes them with me - (I expect to see him this morning) I shall pack them up with my Notes &c. & send them on to you, by Adams' Express, in good time - I believe I have now "said my say" for this time, & doubtless much of it will hardly claim (even your momentary) attention, but I beg you not to forget my best love to dear Lady I. whose mission at Beverly I sincerely regret - Please also give my kind regards to Bakes - I have been making up, he desired a list of the Plants of which I have no N.E. Spec.ns & when it is completed, I shall send it to him - tho' (entre nous) with little hope that they will afford me either pleasure or instruction. This, however, it is not for me to determine, but I am at least certain, that (without reference to the future) I am at present, Very sincerely Yrs.

Jas. L.